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09/929053
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Prior Application: APPLICANTS: K. Takahashi et al
Serial No. 09/292,990
Filed: April 16, 1999

Group Art: 1743
Examiner: Patricia Kathryn Bex
For: SAMPLE RACK HANDLING SYSTEM

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure, the applicants inform the Examiner of the documents cited during prosecution of the parent application, Serial No. 09/292,990.

The applicants request the Examiner to initial and return a copy of the attached PTO-1449 form as an indication that the references have been considered.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 15, 2001

FORM PTO-1449 (REV. 7-80)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY. DOCKET NO. NIP-147-02	SERIAL NO.
LIST OF DOCUMENTS CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)		APPLICANT K. TAKAHASHI et al	
		FILING DATE August 15, 2001	GROUP 1743

Jc97-09/29/052 U.S. PTO 08/15/01

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (If Appropriate)
AA	6,019,945	2/2000	Ohishi et al.	422	65	
AB	6,060,022	5/2000	Pang et al.	422	65	
AC	5,985,214	11/1999	Stylli et al.	422	65	
AD	5,972,295	10/1999	Hanawa et al.	422	65	
AE	5,928,952	7/1999	Hutchins et al.	436	50	
AF	5,207,986	5/1993	Kadota et al.	422	65	
AG	5,055,408	10/1991	Higo et al.	436	48	
AH	5,008,082	4/1991	Shaw	422	65	
AI	4,965,049	10/1990	Lillig et al.	422	68.1	
AJ						
AK						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
						YES NO
AL	3-285175	12/16/91	Japanese Laid-Open Patent			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
AM						<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
AN						<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
AO						<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
AP						<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

AR	Total Clinical Laboratory Testing System for Laboratory Automation, HITACHI REVIEW, Vol. 41, No. 4, 1992, pp. 167-172.		
AS			
AT			

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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